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February 1, 2017

Aloha e FCC Commissioners:

I am writing in my capacity as the Executive Director of Hawaiian Community Assets, Inc. (HCA), a 501c3 nonprofit United States Department of Housing and Urban Development certified housing counseling agency to submit a letter in support of Sandwich Isles Communications (SIC).

HCA has been a business customer of SIC since 2006. Their telecommunications services have been critical to our success in serving low and moderate income individuals with government-certified housing counseling services throughout the State of Hawaii. As the use of internet has become an integral part of our work, we have come to rely on SIC to prepare first-time homebuyers so they are able to access millions of dollars in mortgage financing and create additional opportunities for them to be active contributions to the United States' economy.

While SIC has provided our organization with services over the last 10 years, it has been their commitment to providing affordable phone products and internet services to the 9,000+ Hawaiian Home Lands residents that has made them a fixture in our communities. Prior to SIC's founding in 1988, our Hawaiian Home Lands residents either received telecommunications services at nearly triple the cost, or worse, did not receive any such services whatsoever. SIC remains the only telecommunications provider in the State of Hawaii that has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our people, fulfilling their responsibility of being a "life line" for our families.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to ensure that SIC continue to operate so that our business and the more than 9,000 residents of Hawaiian Home Lands may receive uninterrupted service. Without SIC, we are concerned that businesses like HCA and families on Hawaiian Home Lands would lose telecommunications services that we have come to rely on, therefore jeopardizing the well-being of our business community, families, and overall economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our organization's comments in support of SIC. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 808.587.7653 or at jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net should you have any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely

Jeff Gilbreath
Executive Director